



Short Safety Subject

Short Safety Subjects are provided by the Public Safety Business Center, Fort Bragg, NC. Our intent is to provide safety topics for the purpose of increasing safety awareness and improving safety performance. Additional Short Safety Subjects are available on the PSBC Business Management Web Site at:

www.bragg.army.mil/psbc-bm/PubsAndForms/ShortSafetySubjects.htm

Motorcycle Operator Checklist

If riding a motorcycle, use the following checklist to assess your "Preparation to Ride":

- Do you have the proper endorsement on your license to operate a motorcycle?
- Are your motorcycle registration, state inspection, insurance and base stickers current?
- Do you have and use all the REQUIRED personal protective equipment:
 - **DOT-approved helmet**
 - **Long trousers**
 - **Long-sleeved shirt or jacket**
 - **Full-finger leather gloves**
 - **Hard soled shoes with heels that protect the ankle**
 - **Protective eyewear**
 - **Reflective vest**

If the bike has been stored for an extended period of time, prepare for operation using the procedures provided in your owner's manual. Before each ride, remember the pre-ride check: lights/horn, tires/wheels, fuel/oil, cables, and suspension. Remember that tire pressure is a critical part of suspension. Inflate to manufacturers recommendation. Remember that it's been several months since you've ridden your motorcycle. Regardless of your experience, it will be necessary to re-sharpen your physical and mental skills.

Be cautious!

Start off slowly and practice your riding skills. Use an empty parking lot before taking to the streets. Get considerable solo experience before taking on a passenger. Have them wear all the protective equipment and the same clothing specifically designed for motorcycling. Don't forget their safety briefing. Again, it's a good idea for both of you to get comfortable in a parking lot before street riding. Practice in a parking lot with your passenger until you are comfortable with the critical accident avoidance skills of braking, cornering and swerving. Don't forget that you are responsible for their well-being. Above all, remember that alcohol in any amount, excessive speed, and lack of training/experience are each singularly deadly when applied to motorcycling. Combined, they are a sure-fire method of becoming a traffic statistic.